

MINUTES OF MEETING  
State Board of Education  
October 18, 2001

The October meeting of the State Board of Education was held in Des Moines on October 18, 2001.

The Board's business meeting was held at the Grimes State Office Building, State Board Conference Room. Board members Gene Vincent, Charles Edwards, Jr., Gregory McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery, Don L. Roby, Kay Wagner and John White were present. Board members Corine Hadley and Sally Frudden were not present. Also present were Department director Ted Stilwill and Department staff members Gail Sullivan, Ann McCarthy, Carol Greta, Kathi Slaughter, Lee Tack, Dave Alvord, Coleen McClanahan, Judy Jeffrey, Jim Reese, Deb Hansen, Carlene Lodermeier, Chris Rinner, Tom Deeter, Susan Anderson, Kent Ryan, Kathy Hinders, Laurabelle Sherman-Proehl, Jan Friedel, Roger Stirler, and Beverlee Adams. Also present was Robin Madison, Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Gene Vincent, Vice President called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

It was moved by Mary Jean Montgomery and seconded by Don Roby to approve the agenda as written.

**RECOGNITION – Project EASIER Awards**

Lee Tack, Administrator and Dave Alvord, Bureau Chief, Division of Financial and Information Services, presented the Project EASIER awards. The awards were presented to individuals that have supported this project in various ways (i.e. serving on the initial statewide advisory committee, working with the DE in identifying a uniform set of data elements needed for electronic transcripts for post-secondary institutions and in creating trading partner agreements; providing feedback on test transcript transmissions; and promoting the goals of Project EASIER not only within their own institutions but across the state and throughout the nation.)

Jerry Dallam, University Registrar at the University of Iowa, acknowledged Lee Tack and his staff for the leadership and

commitment they have offered in Project Easier. Dallam indicated other states do not have this expertise available.

## **COMMUNICATION**

There was no public comment.

### **Board Member Reports**

Mary Jean Montgomery indicated she wanted to clarify the name on the Iowa Partnership for School Leadership report made in September. This group was broadened to guide the work of the planning grant that Iowa received. Fifteen states were selected as recipients for the planning grant. The next step was to write an implementation grant and this consortium group guided the work of this grant. This group is an all-purpose over site group for leadership development activities. A national consortium had set out six priorities to guide this grant project.

Ms. Montgomery announced the E-learning national study group report would be released on October 19, 2001. It is a well written document for policymakers. Montgomery expressed her concern that Project Easier should have been included as one example of the exemplary projects listed in this report. This report addresses policy and technology--the pitfalls and opportunities in terms of statewide policy. The release of this report was to have been at the NASBE national meeting that was cancelled. Ms. Montgomery said this report would be released at the National Press Club, which would give NASBE well-deserved recognition. President Hadley will be part of the panel in attendance to release this national report.

Kay Wagner reported she had attended the Area IX Superintendent's meeting. A conversation regarding merger between Area IX and Area XVI was being explored. Wagner indicated the Community College Licensure Task Force would be bringing a proposed recommendation to the State Board in November.

John White -- No report.

Don Roby attended the Community College Council meeting earlier this day. A discussion was held regarding financial aid to a small number of students and the increase in tuition and fees. That and the budget cuts in community colleges are a major concern in looking at positive ways to help students and staff maintain quality education. Jan Friedel presented an update on the Community College Performance Indicators Task Force and Community College Licensure Task Force.

Greg McClain indicated he had attended distance learning meetings in Rolla, Missouri. One of the items discussed was an on-line master's degree. McClain reported an articulation agreement had been reached between Boeing Airlines and the University of Southern California on obtaining an engineering degree accredited by USC.

He reported he was currently serving on a Recruitment and Retention Committee which had identified that not enough minority students were in the engineering field. They are going to focus on developing an interest in engineering at lower grade levels.

Gene Vincent was pleased to share in the presentation of the Milken Award to Tom Paulsen, Agriculture Education Instructor and FFA Advisor for Carroll Community High School and Kuemper Catholic High School in Carroll. Vincent has been a strong promoter for this program in Carroll. He indicated it was a proud moment for him to be a part of this special event.

### **Director's Report**

Department director Ted Stilwill was honored to have shared in the presentation of the Milken awards given to the past and present Ambassadors for Education; Tom Paulsen, Carroll, and Gail Wortmann, Ottumwa. These awards are presented annually to outstanding teachers selected by the Milken Foundation.

Jan Friedel and Director Stilwill have been traveling to visit the new community college presidents appointed in the state.

Stilwill gave a federal legislative update on the progress of ESEA Reauthorization and the FY02 federal appropriation process as well as IDEA Reauthorization.

He indicated the most controversial aspect of both the House and Senate bills for ESEA Reauthorization centered around forming national policy on measuring student achievement. Unresolved issues included:

- Defining adequate yearly progress
- Finalizing annual assessment provisions
- Choosing or merging several different state flexibility mechanisms
- Determining the corresponding authorized funding levels

Director Stilwill shared the state budget conversation to date. He said we were into the second round of reductions and plans had been submitted by each state agency to the Office of the Governor. One savings measure being discussed was the offer of an early retirement option to state employees. The severity of these cuts will affect State

Board activities also. He also talked about state/federal positions in the department and how the positions were broken down in each division.

### **Every Child Reads**

Administrator Judy Jeffrey expressed appreciation to the presenters for all of the time and travel they had done while working on the Every Child Reads program (Kindergarten through Grade 3). She gave special recognition to Jim Reese for his accomplishments with the program as well as serving as the interim bureau chief during this time of transition.

Jim Reese, Interim Chief, Bureau of Instructional Services, reviewed the completed three-year phase of the Every Child Reads program. The initiative was designed to:

1. build a statewide cross-role professional learning community focused on expanding instruction in literacy with a specific emphasis on improving student achievement in reading;
2. strengthen school improvement directed at student achievement; and,
3. simultaneously build the individual leadership capacity of participants who would be future leaders – teachers, school-based administrators, district central office personnel, and Area Education Agency and Department of Education staff.

Deb Hansen, Consultant for Professional Development, Teacher Quality Team, presented information about the findings and implications of the plan, the participation of schools and who was involved. Consultant Carlene Lodermeier, reviewed the findings of schools. The goal was building a learning community engaged in studying and promoting growth in reading and writing. She talked about the degree to which schoolwide action research was used and the importance of action research and implications for curriculum and instruction. Ms. Lodermeier reported the new ways of using data and having an assessment program in place that provided diagnostic data on reading progress. The implementation of this program was critical in the process schools use in building capacity across the staff in pursuing school improvement.

Chris Rinner, Consultant, discussed the third segment; student achievement in the high implementing schools. He referred to the various test results in meeting the needs of learners in the regular classroom. If student achievement can be accelerated as a result of structural school improvement in high implementing schools, it can be achieved in any Iowa school.

Ms. Lodermeier reported on the effort of bringing more schools into the complete Every Child Reads program. The goal to have the participants be able to generalize from the knowledge and experience gained in Every Child Reads to any curricular and instructional school improvement initiative they might undertake. Hansen concluded the presentation by reviewing the future implications and plan. The presentation was concluded with a video clip of a family that had participated in the program and how Every Child Reads had impacted their son's education.

### **Department Appropriation Request for FY 03**

Administrator Lee Tack presented the Department of Education appropriation request for FY 03. The Code of Iowa requires the Department to submit appropriation requests to the Department of Management annually. Tack provided a summary of the requests and indicated they would change with the budget reductions and across-the-board cuts being proposed.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the September 20-21 meeting were approved with the following correction to the Board report of Mary Jean Montgomery:

Mary Jean Montgomery reported she had served as a member of the Iowa Partnership for School Leadership Grant Team for Wallace Readers Digest that held a retreat in Perry. Two Iowa school districts were making application for the implementation grant to be a demonstration site.

### **Appeal Decision**

**In re Jacob & Stevie Lushinsky.** Brian & Amy Lushinsky, Appellants, v. Red Oak Community School District. The decision affirms the decision of the Board of Directors of the Red Oak Community School District made on June 21, 2001 denying Appellants' open enrollment applications for Stevie and Jacob Lushinsky.

### **Appeal Decision**

**In re Scott, Andrew, Isaiah & Joshua Clarke.** Scott Clarke, Appellant v. North Kossuth Community School District, Appellee.

Susan Anderson, administrative law judge, reviewed this appeal. She indicated this was a first-time issue before the State Board. The issue raised in this appeal was whether the Open Enrollment Law is available for Iowa parents who want to send their children to an out-of-state school district. The Appellant and his family moved into the District from the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota area on June 30, 2001. The residence was located just south of the border between Minnesota and Iowa. Mr. Clarke filed open enrollment applications for his four sons to attend Blue Earth Area School District, located in Minnesota, which is 15 miles north of their Iowa residence in the North Kossuth District.

The North Kossuth District denied the request on its belief that the Open Enrollment Law did not extend across state lines and the District did not have an arrangement, under Iowa Code section 282.2, entitled, "Attending schools outside state."

Motion: It was moved by Kay Wagner and seconded by Charlie Edwards that the Board approve the administrative law judge's decision in the appeal of Scott Clarke and the North Kossuth Community School District.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously. The decision affirms the Board of Directors of the North Kossuth Community School District decision made on July 16, 2001 to deny the Appellant's open enrollment applications.

### **Policy Development Agenda**

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, presented the revised policy development agenda. This information had been presented to the Board in September. This framework is designed to provide the Board with information for making policy decisions in priority areas. Sullivan reviewed the recommended modifications made by the Board in the policy development agenda.

Motion: It was moved by Mary Jean Montgomery and seconded by Don Roby that the State Board approve the proposed policy development agenda.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Director Stilwill handed out a list of proposed topics for the November meeting.

Vice President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

